(b) and (c) BIFR has reported that it has streamlined its procedures, reduced the time lag in hearing and shortened the overall duration of proceedings so as to ensure expeditious disposal of references. BIFR has further reported that the time taken for disposal of cases is coming down. While the average time taken for disposal of cases registered with BIFR during 1987 to 1991 was 739 days, the average time taken for disposal of cases registered during 1992 and 1993 was 457 days and 196 days respectively. For the year 1994, the average time taken for cases already disposed of was 105 days.

Resignation by Members from Central Film Censor Board

1231. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Central Film Censor Board have resigned recently to lodge their protest against the prevailing "Wrong policies and actions" of the Board; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No. Sir.
(b) Does not arise.

Successive Fall in the Rate of Inflation

1232. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1996 and state:

(a) the rates of inflation in the months of January during the years successively 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(b) the factors responsible for the progressive fall in the inflation rate and in what way it is related to overall economic growth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Dr. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) The annual rate of inflation in terms of wholesale Price Index (base:1981-82) for the month of January from 1991-1996 is listed below:-

As on January	Annual rate of inflation
1991	12.9
1992	13.6
1993	7.6
1994	9.1
1995	12.1
1996(provisional)	5.2

(b) Some of important factors responsible for the progressive fall in the inflation rate during the current year are:—

— Continuation of open market sale by FCI of rice and wheat through 1995-96.
— Continuing OGL import policy for sugar, edible oils and pulses at nil or reduced duty.
— Import of sugar and edible oils on Government account for augmenting supply through PDS.
— Adjustment in trade, tax and tariff policies in the Budget for current fiscal year to ensure that domestic prices of industrial products remain competitive.
— Strengthening of public distribution system and its expansion in RPDS areas.
— Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget for current financial year to 5.5 per cent of GDP.
— Containing monetary growth to less than 15.5 per cent in 1995-96 through a series of measures.

Violation of FERA

1233. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt.'s attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the 'Asian

Age' dated the 7th January, 1996 regarding violation of FERA by Zee TV by entering into an agreement with STC; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries in the matter have been initiated.

Banks to Borrow from Overseas Banks

1234. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have sought the permission of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to borrow from their overseas branches;

(b) if so, the names of these banks;

(c) the reasons for seeking permission to borrow from their overseas branches; and

(d) the steps taken by RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that UCO Bank and Bank of Baroda have approached RBI seeking its permission to borrow from their overseas branches for funding their rupee requirements.

(d) RBI has reported that as per exchange control regulations, banks are permitted to borrow from overseas branches/correspondents for meeting rupee requirements. However, such borrowings attract reserve requirements and banks are required to be free of call market borowings before repartiating the borrowed funds. The banks have requested for waiver of these considtions. No decision has been taken by RBI in this regard.

Assessment of Demand for woollen Garments in international Market

1235. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 870 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the demand for woollen garments in the International market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) No study has so far been commissioned by the Government to specifically assess the international demand for woollen garments in the international market. However, there are indications that the total demand for garments including woollen garments has been increasing in the international market.

Demand and Supply of Power in Bihar

1236. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of power, its generation capacity and actual distribution of power in Bihar at present;

(b) the gap between demand and supply and in what manner it is going to be bridged;

(c) whether any complaint of shortage of power has been received from industrial/agricultural sectors; and

(d) if so, in what way this shortage is going to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The installed generation capacity in Bihar at present is 1766.75. During the period April'95 Januatry-96 the energy requirement in Bihar was 7980 MU against which the availability was 5566 MU which represents a shortage of 30.3%. In order to bridge the gap between demand and